



Term 2

Week 5 – 21 May 2014

Distributed weekly on Wednesday

*A year calendar of events was distributed at the start of the year.
This section includes those events and any updates.*

Term 2

22nd April – 27th June

10 weeks

2 public holidays – ANZAC Day, Queen's Birthday

1 pupil free day – Report Writing

May

21st Wednesday – Pupil Free Day – Report Writing

June

9th Monday – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

16th – 20th – Cycle 1 kindergarten (3&4 1st and 2nd year of Cycle) Parent Teacher Interviews

23 – 26th – Cycle 1 Prep Parent Teacher Interviews

27th Friday – End of Term 2. 2.15pm finish

17th December – End of Term 4. 3.15pm finish

More dates to be added throughout the term. Keep checking this section to stay informed

Stay connected via the facebook and Twitter school accounts and also access a range of parenting and educational philosophy posts and articles.

Please note that Wednesday the 21st May is a pupil free day.

From the Principal

Thanks to our parent community for their support through their swift response to our emails and texts on Friday after a burst water main in Albert Road cut off our water supply. Whilst not an emergency in the sense that children's safety was at risk, the lack of water for drinking, toileting and handwashing did pose a health risk; particularly as we have had gastro in our school over the past two weeks. The event enabled us to implement our emergency management plan and has provided opportunity for a critical review of our protocols and procedures.

We are very happy with the communication, response and management in such a situation and thank you for your concern and support.

This term has been a very busy time with tours, observations and enrolment enquiries. Some prospective families have been emotionally overwhelmed by the possibility of what their children will experience and I have many goosebump moments when I see these reactions. I am never prouder of our students and the staff when I take those new to Montessori into the rooms. Thank you for making this school what it is.

Montessori Autumn Family Feast

Great turn up, thanks to Jade Mile, Nicola Bussell for driving the event and the support of those parents in food prep and clean up. A report will be included in next week's newsletter.

If anyone has seen the kitchen tea towels, wine glasses and some cutlery can you please return them or let the office staff know their whereabouts.

Kind regards, Heather



Employment Opportunity at Beechworth Montessori School

Cycle 2 Assistant (full time)

Commencement asap

The following exciting opportunities exist for the right person at our progressive Montessori school that caters for children aged from birth – 12 years. Beechworth is situated 300 kms NE from Melbourne and within 30 mins of the regional centres of Albury/Wodonga and Wangaratta.

Beechworth is a great place to live, work and play.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons.

Position description, selection criteria and details are available upon request.

Please contact the Principal Heather Gerrard

principal@beechworthmontessori.vic.edu.au

03 5728 2940

Applications close Monday May 26th 2014

P&F News

Wanted – dinner plates you no longer want, coffee cups, glassware, CUTLERY. Please think of us before you give to the op shops or throw out. The P&F will put them into storage and use for their functions.

Loads of Clothes Market

Yes, LOC Market will run on the weekend of October 11 and 12. Rebecca, Danielle, Heather, Georgia & Anne are heading up the organisation but if you'd like to offer to help on the weekend, in marketing, etc. please let one of these people know. We will be calling for sellers soon – thanks to Lou for agreeing to manage the logo and flyer creation.

General News

Walk Safely to School day is on Friday 23 May. Parents, students, teachers are invited to meet at the post office at 8.30am to walk to school together. This is not associated with the walking school bus so everyone can join in, no registration required. The idea is to encourage safe and regular walking. If you have to drive – park somewhere and meet us at the post office or join us along the walk up Albert Road. Parents and staff welcome. Please note that we will not be walking if raining.

LOST: Children's reference book on Portugal. Belongs to the Wodonga Library. Lost outside Turquoise room at the end of term 1. Please contact Bec on 0438416445.

Found: Vision glasses found in the carpark at school. Could they be yours – check at the office.

Interested in finding out more about restorative practice? Visit

www.rethought.com.au – for information and resources on restorative practice.

Cycle 2 News

Moonstone

Ancient Civilisations: After two weeks of research, construction has begun on the model which will represent aspects of the Great Wall of China - the landscape, from the mountains to the sea, the beginning and the Pass at the end of the wall, different types of beacon towers, vegetation and people.



Grammar: What is a verb? Can you think of an example of a verb?

Readers: We are making a concerted effort to return readers as soon as you have read them. Then you can exchange your book for another reader and often someone in class is waiting to read the reader.

The Human Body: We are studying the main organs of the body and their functions in preparation for learning more about our body systems.

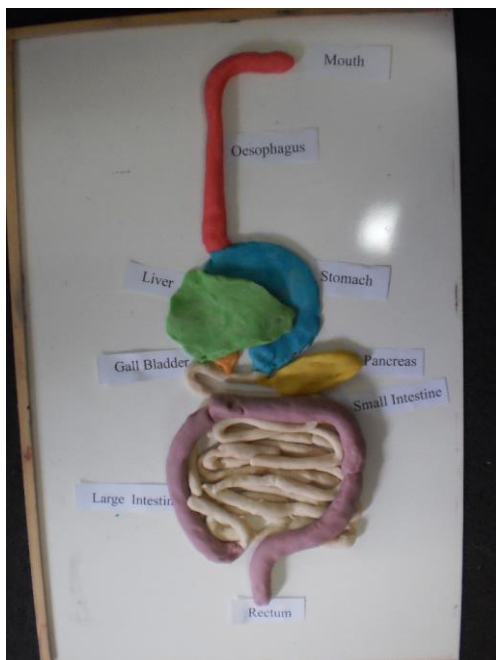
Welcome to Arnya who has joined our room recently after moving schools.

Susi & Sally

Turquoise

Body systems:

Over the week the children have been learning about the digestive system – it's parts and functions – we have had great discussions about what goes in and out of this system and why! The children were able to accurately reconstruct the play dough model a week later without prompting or pictures and recall an enormous amount of information that we had discussed the previous week.



Food guidelines:

The children complete a food wheel where they had to accurately match food stuffs from each category but also take note of the relative volume of each section, to help guide their eating choices.



Art:

Unfortunately art was the casualty of Friday's early exodus from school and we will continue with our theme in the coming weeks.

Bluearth:

The children are thriving during bluearth sessions. It is great to see their improved capacity for self umpiring, along with their improving cooperation in team situations. The children are always encouraged to 'be and do their

best'.

Music:

Marimba lessons continue this term, the children are motivated to challenge and extend their skills and love new songs. They are becoming increasingly familiar with terms such as rhythm and beat and love choosing which part to play.

History:

Today's excursion to the telegraph station was very informative and hands on. The children loved getting out of the classroom and asked plenty of questions. No doubt a few requested to return and send a telegram will come home! Fountain pens – the children have been experimenting with fountain pens in the room, with some finding the angle of use frustrating as it refuses to work on any angle like a pencil! No doubt some parents have seen the evidence of its use with ink staining the fingers for errant users!

Karen & Dina

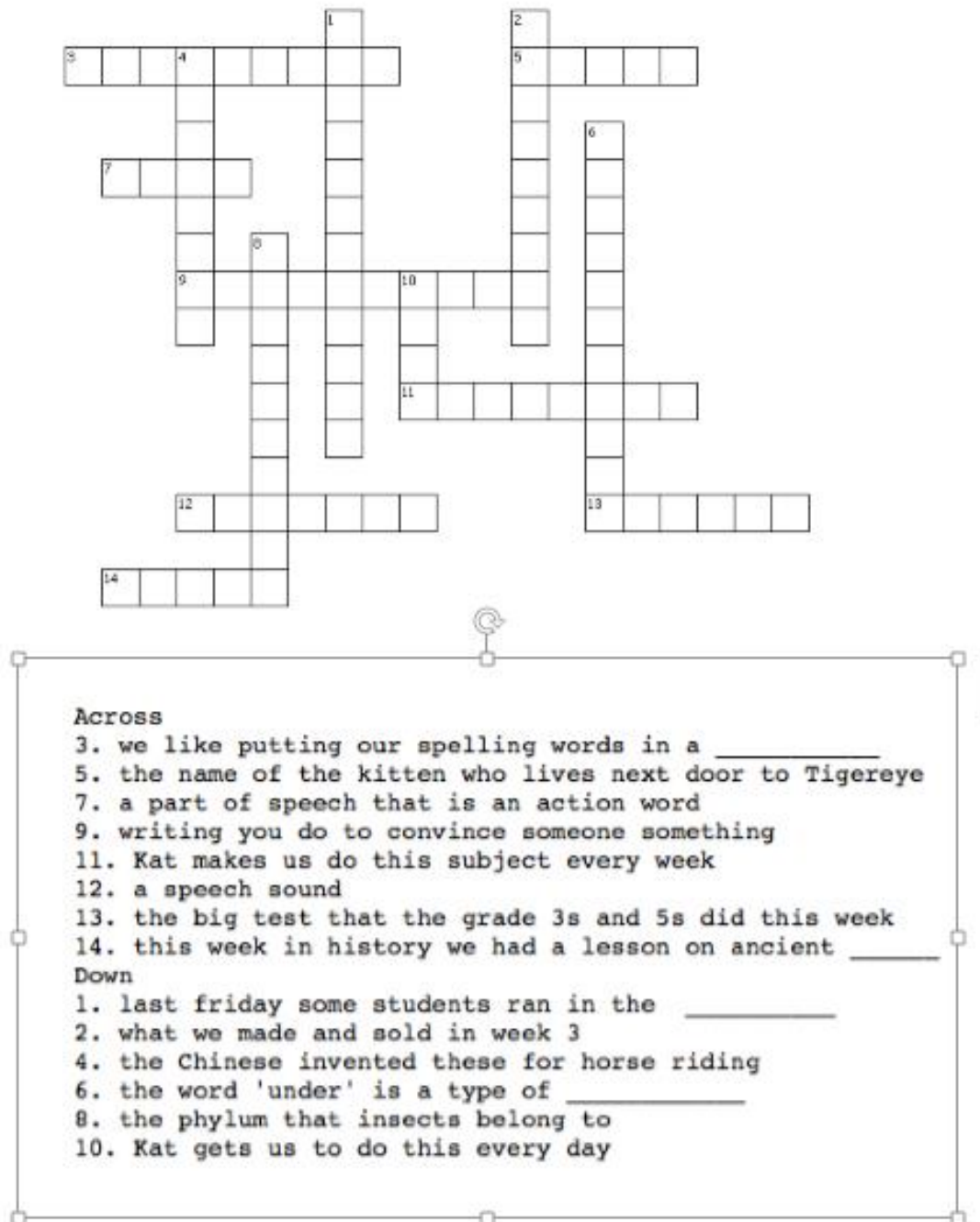
Cycle 3 News

Cross-Country

Congratulations to all our Cycle 3 students who competed at the Beechworth District Schools cross-country in Yackandandah last Friday. It was a beautiful sunny day and there was a wonderful atmosphere of support and encouragement between our students. It was also a really nice day for catching up with friends from other local schools. There were two distances depending upon a student's age: 2 km for students who turned 10 in 2014 and 3 km for 11 and 12-year-olds.

Congratulations to Fred Wilkinson, Lia Ladbrook, Akeidha Alexander, Charlotte Holden and Uli Wild who came 10th, 2nd, 4th, 10th and 1st respectively within their age groups and made it through to the Upper Hume Regional Cross-country. This will be held in Wodonga this Friday May 23rd.





Topaz

Well done to all our runners last Friday, what a great effort by all. Thanks to Andrea, who does such a great job with our Physical Education curriculum. The students trained for this event over Term 1 and 2, culminating in a practice run up at La Trobe last Wednesday. Students were then given the choice whether they wished to compete at Yackandandah.

In Zoology we are busily finishing insect reports with students choosing how they would like to present their project, either manually or digitally. Our 3D models are almost completed and will begin to appear in swarms in the foyer soon. Many students are attempting to memorise all their times-tables by the end of the year and this is an area that you can assist them with at home. At the moment we are also memorising squared numbers from 1-12. Numbers higher than 12 we are using the Algebraic Pegboard as a manual computer where students lay out the pegs and can clearly see the different hierarchies.

In history we have discovered that Uluru was formed when the centre of Australia was under the sea. Ancient mountains in the area were eroded down onto the sea floor and the subsequent pressure over millions of years and the weight of the sediments, hardened into a rock 6 kilometres thick, after the sea retreated 430 million years ago.

Movements of the tectonic plates turned the rock onto its side, so now the layers of sand and gravel form the familiar lines of Uluru. One huge sedimentary rock!

Terie

Montessori Matters

Intrinsic Motivation

<http://vibrantwanderings.com/2013/10/6-goals-of-the-montessori-classroom-and-how-you-can-support-them.html>

Enjoyable work, freely chosen and carried out without interruption is its own reward.

“I had been subject to the delusion of one of the most absurd procedures of ordinary education. Like others I had believed that it was necessary to encourage a child by means of some exterior reward that would flatter his baser sentiments... And I was astonished when I learned that a child who is permitted to educate himself really gives up these lower instincts. I then urged the teachers to cease handing out the ordinary prizes and punishments, which were no longer suited to our children, and to confine themselves to directing them gently in their work.” Maria Montessori

When children are acting from their own, true, inner motivation, they are truly able to work in a way that supports their development, rather than their desire to please others or to avoid punishment. The enjoyment of enriching activity is a great reward in itself. In the classroom, we avoid praise and never dole out punishments, as these are both forms of manipulation which teach the child to alter his or her behavior not based on an inner desire to do good, but based on what they think those around them want them to do.

We avoid interjecting our own opinions of the child's work, but certainly engage with a child who wishes to share their work with us. We take care to offer nonjudgmental feedback that allows space for the child's own assessment of their work. To “Look at my painting!” we may say, “I see you used many different colors. Thank you for sharing your work with me.” or “I see. Would you like to tell me about what you've painted?”

When a child's behavior is inappropriate, this is first and foremost a sign that they need our support. Our job is first to observe and consider what type of support may be needed. When stepping in, we take care to behave in a respectful way toward the child, and to offer reasons and explanations for our requests. We trust that the children want to behave respectfully and peacefully, and we offer respectful and peaceful alternatives to inappropriate behavior. To the child who is running indoors, we may say, “When I see you running, I feel scared that you might run into a table or a shelf and hurt yourself, or that you might accidentally run into and hurt one of your friends. Let's practice walking together.” If two adults are present, it's entirely appropriate to take a child who seems to need to run or to yell outdoors briefly and allow them to get a bit of their energy out before returning to the classroom.

Community News

BIKE NEWS

Hey Kids, here's your chance to use your bike ed skills. The Wangaratta Cycling Club is holding a “Come and Try” afternoon on Saturday 24th of May from 1pm at their club rooms located in the Wangaratta Sale Yards Complex in Shanley Street. Interested Junior cyclists aged 8 and above are welcome to come along and see what it's all about. Bring your bike, your helmet, and Mum or Dad. There will be several qualified club members and parents on hand to assist with bike set up and conduct a skills session. Free BBQ. The club has some bikes available for use by juniors. To register your interest, please send an email with your name, age, skill level and contact details to wangarattacyclingclub@gmail.com or contact the Club President, Mal Kay (mobile) 0447 214 464 for more information. Beginners welcome. The Victorian Schools Cycling Championships are coming up soon and the Border road racing heat will be held on Friday August 22nd at the Wangaratta Airport. How great would it be to ride for your Primary School? For more information visit, <http://vic.cycling.org.au/News/PgrID/3429/PageID/10>. The Wangaratta Cycling Club holds weekly junior training and road racing sessions at 2pm on Saturday afternoons at the Wangaratta Sale Yards Complex in Shanley Street.

A camp for grandparents and grandchildren

**YMCA Grandparent
Camp**



A camp for grandparents who have full time care of their grandchildren

Come for some R&R for the grandparents and some fun, adventure activities for the grandkids

Where? YMCA Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp
Tramway Dr, Mt Evelyn

When? Be prepared to stay for the weekend:
Arrival on Friday the 6th of June at 6pm for dinner
Departing on Sunday the 8th after lunch

Cost: \$5 Per person Includes food and accommodation

RSVP BY: Friday 20th May

**For More
information
Or to RSVP
Contact Leigh
On: 9345 8029
Leigh.ware@ymca.org.au**



**COME ALONG TO OUR FREE MORNING TEA
SATURDAY 31ST MAY FROM 9.30 – 11.30AM
ENJOY A WARM CUPPA, A SLICE OF CAKE AND WATCH THE
CHILDREN PLAY IN THE COMMUNITY GARDENS WITH THE
BEST TOYS IN TOWN!
6 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR ANYONE THAT COMES
ALONG!
EVERYONE WELCOME**

Beechworth Neighborhood Centre, Ford St